

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 056838

53

ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 INRE-00 /107 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ CEN: DLAZAR: AVG

3/21/73, EXT 29362

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TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056838

E. O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, ES, HO, XK

SUBJ: AIR FORCE MODERNIZATION

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1025

1. APPRECIATE VIEWS OF COUNTRY TEAM SET FORTH IN REFTEL.
HOWEVER DEPARTMENT SEES NO PRESENT REASON TO ATTEMPT TO
CHANGE GOES POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

2. GOES DECISION TO PURCHASE T-37' S MADE AFTER FULL
DISCUSSION WITH CT OF A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE OPTIONS, ALL
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PAGE 02 STATE 056838

OF WHICH CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BEFOREHAND BY US AS TO
TECHNICAL SOUNDNESS. DECISION REAFFIRMED EVEN AFTER
DISCLOSURE TO GOES THAT HONDURANS, ON BASIS OF SAME OPTION
PACKAGE, HAD CHOSEN 6 A-37' S.

3. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE GOES THOUGHTS RE FUTURE
PUECHASE A-37 S, SUGGEST WE CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME
TO IT. PAST GOES LEAKS RE INTENTIONS AIRCRAFT PURCHASES
HAVE PROVEN HIGHLY UNRELIABLE. CERTAINLY PURCHASE NOW OF
PRESENTLY PLANNED PACKAGE WOULD STRONGLY DISPOSE THEM
TOWARDS SOME MODEL OF THIS PLANE IN THE FUTURE, SHOULD
PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASES IN FACT EVENTUATE. THIS
PROVILIGHTS HAD ANY SPECIAL POLITICAL
SIGNIFICANCE, ALTHOUGH WE SUSPECT THERE WILL BE A GOOD DEAL
OF SPECULATION ON THAT SCORE.
SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE056838
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLAZAR: AVG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730343/aaaaimox.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 SAN SALVADOR 1025
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980112
Subject: AIR FORCE MODERNIZATION
TAGS: MASS, ES, HO, XK
To: GUATEMALA
MANAGUA
SAN SALVADOR
TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

